

First Mount Zion Baptist Church

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Dr. Luke E. Torian, Pastor

October 24, 2007

U.S. Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kevin Martin and the FCC:

Please refrain from adopting a proposed rule that would raise prices for cable services for residents of apartment buildings, many of whom are low-income and minority residents that worship at my church and thousands of other churches that are providing hope and guidance to our communities.

The families in my community are hardworking people. Indeed, some rent apartments or live in close proximity to one another in the multi-dwelling units (MDUs) at issue in this proceeding. They benefit from landlords and cable operators' willingness to agree to deploy new services at lower rates for residents. Why the FCC would consider invalidating such agreements is beyond my comprehension, since anything that can result in lower prices for hard working families seems like something the Federal government would promote- and not undermine.

The Federal government is once again working against the efforts of local officials, civil rights leaders and community organizations to help our children improve their lot in life. The Commission's insistence on regulations labeled *a la carte* would silence minority content on cable television, and its position on video franchising has meant an end to anti-discrimination protections that helped narrow the digital divide and bring the Internet to diverse neighborhoods throughout the country.

I hope the Commission will take a "first do no harm" approach and avoid taking a step to end the agreements for multi-dwelling units that have brought lower prices and benefits to working families that live in them. I certainly hope this will always be the primary goal for our government officials, and respectfully urge you to oppose the proposed rule.

Sincerely,



Dr. Luke E. Torian
Pastor